

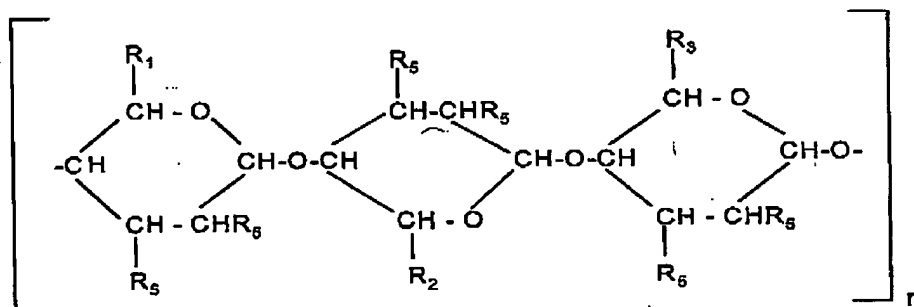
Attorney's Docket: 2003DE413
 Serial No.: 10/791,577
 Art Unit 1713
Response to Office Action of July 27, 2004

In the Specification, please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following:

Abstract of the Disclosure

A polymeric composition based on PVA is claimed and comprises ~~is substantively composed of~~

- a) from 50 to 99.9% by weight of polyvinyl alcohol with an average MW of from 5 000 to 25 000 and with a degree of hydrolysis of from 79 to 99.9 mol%, where the polyvinyl alcohol may contain carboxy groups or polyglycol units in the molecule, and
- b) from 0.1 to 50% by weight, ~~and particularly preferably from 0.1 to 10% by weight,~~ of one or more polysaccharides of the formula



where

$\text{R}_1, \text{R}_2, \text{R}_3$ are H, CH_2OH , COOMe , $[\text{COOMe}]$, COOR_4 , CONHR_6 , or $\text{CH}_2\text{OSO}_3\text{Me}$, and Me is Na, K, NH_4 , Mg, or Ca, n is a number from 20 to 20 000, R_4 is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, preferably methyl, R_5 is OH, NHCOCH_3 , H or OCOCH_3 and R_6 is H, COCH_3 , or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, preferably methyl. This polymeric composition is suitable for producing capsules.

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Please amend paragraphs [00013] and [00015] as follows:

[00013] 6 g of gum arabic (30%, based on S) were dissolved in 180 g of water, with vigorous stirring and heating, and then 14 g of PVA with an average MW of 31 000 and an average degree of hydrolysis of 88 mol% (Mowiol® 4-88) were added by sprinkling in such a way that no clumping of the grains occurred. Once an almost clear solution had been obtained, 0.5 g of CaCO₃, 2 g of shea butter and 0.9 g of Lamepon LAMEPON S (potassium cocoyl hydrolyzed collagen, Spinnrad) were then added individually, in each case after dissolution or dispersion of the previous substance. Once the foam had collapsed, the mixture was cooled. The slightly cloudy solution has 8.6% solids and a viscosity of 640 mPas at 20°C in a Brookfield LVT viscometer (3/30).

[00015], 180 g of water were heated, and 2 g of pectin (10%, based on S) were added, with vigorous stirring. Once an almost clear solution had been obtained, 18 g of PVA with an average MW of 150 000 and an average degree of hydrolysis of 88 mol% (Mowiol 23-88) were added by sprinkling in such a way that no clumping of the grains occurred. Once the material had been dissolved, 0.4 g of Lamepon LAMEPON S (potassium cocoyl hydrolyzed collagen, Spinnrad) was added as emulsifier. After cooling, water was added to replace that which had evaporated. The solution had a solids content of 10% by weight, and gave a viscosity of 940 mPas at 20°C in a Brookfield LVT viscometer (3/30).